1998 - 1999

Annual Report

Safety Code Services

101-04829/

Introduction

Fiscal 1998/1999 marks the second year of operations for New Brunswick Safety Code Services - Special Operating Agency (SOA).

The agency is responsible for the safety of electrical and plumbing installations, boilers and pressure vessels, elevating devices and compressed gas systems. It consists of 57 technical and support staff located in seven regional offices around the province.

Safety Code Services became an SOA in 1997 in response to stakeholder demands for increased service, a desire by government to improve the enforcement of safety regulations and a willingness by stakeholders to fund increased services directly through inspection fees.

As set out in the second year of a three year transition plan, NBSCS continued to focus on meeting cost recovery targets and delivering services according to approved performance standards.

Activities were also carried out in support of the key result areas of safety, rationalizing regulations, stakeholder participation and delivering a quality efficient service.

Safety

An effective safety system requires that codes and standards are maintained up to date, that inspectors are technically competent to enforce those standards and that there are sufficient resources to carry out compliance monitoring activities.

One new code, the 1998 Canadian Electrical Code was adopted in June of 1998.

Training for NBSCS staff continued to be a priority in 1998/1999 and included computer training, refresher training for electrical and plumbing inspectors participating in the residential inspection program, backflow prevention device training for plumbing inspectors, amusement ride certification and international elevator code training for elevator inspectors; in-service inspection, National Board training and endorsement and quality system management training for boiler inspectors.

NBSCS electrical inspectors also organized a New Brunswick Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors during the year. This Association will provide valuable access to electrical inspector training and certification programs.

In the area of inspection coverage, NBSCS managed to meet or exceed approved performance targets set for 1998/1999. This was achieved despite the additional work associated with developing and implementing a major new information system. (See performance review for statistics)

Rationalizing Regulations

NBSCS continued a process of reviewing regulations and developing proposals to eliminate unnecessary red tape.

In 1998/1999 amendments were made to the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act to allow qualified in-house certified welders, industrial mechanics, power engineers and millwrights to make minor repairs to pressure piping systems.
Regulations were also updated to modernize the stationary engineer occupation to power engineers and to replace the bureacracy of a Lieutenant-Governor in Council appointment of power engineer examiners with a simple designation from the Power Engineer Board.

Stakeholder Participation

The active participation of stakeholders in NBSCS activities is important to ensure services are kept current and relevant.

The Gas Board, Power Engineers Board and the four (4) Safety Advisory Committees representing more than thirty (30) interest groups met a total of eleven (11) times during 1998/1999.

A wide variety of issues were discussed and recommendations made including amendments to regulations covering propane and natural gas licences, regulations for the electrical sign industry, elevator contractor maintenance licences, adoption of new elevator standards, harmonizing the provincial electrical requirements with the Canadian Electrical Code, addressing the use of qualified persons in the electrical industry, the linking of electrical/plumbing permit issuing, contractor notification of residential construction status, new safety standards for hot water tanks and the tracking of elevating device accident statistics.

Some of these recommendations have already been implemented while others are in various stages of resolution.

Safety Code Services also supports the direct delivery of inspection services by stakeholders where it can be shown that the public interest can be maintained and the service will be cost effective.

1998/1999 saw the implementation of a new industry based inspection system for propane installations. NBSCS carried out auditing inspections of this program throughout the year and will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this arrangement.

Quality, Efficient Service

The new Integrated Safety Inspection System (ISIS), was fully implemented in February 1999. This system which replaces 24 other systems, integrates information and processes for clients, exams, licences, sites, permits, inspections, compliance and finances. The system has improved the consistency of approval processes across the province through electronic validation, eliminated the need to enter duplicate data and is providing better management information for planning and evaluating services.

Other potential benefits of improved inspector efficiency and electronically linking NBSCS activites with related services are expected to develop over time.

In addition to performance standards for inspection coverage, SCS is also accountable to meet quality service standards covering response times for service requests. (see below) An internal audit for 1998/1999 revealed that services were being delivered in compliance with these standards.

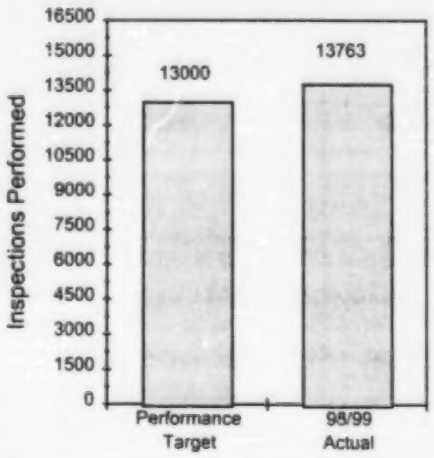
Function	Electrical	Plumbing	BPV	Elevator
Plan Review	Reviewed within 5 working days of receipt.	Reviewed within 5 working days of receipt.	Reviewed within 10 working days of receipt.	Reviewed within 5 working days of receipt.
Design Registration	N\A	N\A	Registered within 2 working days of receipt of approved design.	N\A
QA Manuals	N\A	N\A	Manual reviewed within 10 working days of receipt of application.	N\A
SE/Gas Exams	N\A	N\A	Conducted within 45 working days of receipt of application.	N\A
Special Welder Test Standard Welder Test	N\A	N\A	Conducted within 5 working days of receipt of application. Conducted within 30 working days of receipt of application.	N\A
Installation Permits	Issued within 1 working day of receipt of application or completion of plan approval.	Issued within 1 working day of receipt of application or completion of plan approval.	Issued within 1 working day of receipt of application or completion of plan approval.	Issued within 1 working day of receipt of approved plans.
Operating Permits	N\A	N\A	(a) Issued within 24 hours of final inspection. (b) Renewed within 3 working days of receipt of application.	(a) Issued within 24 hours of final inspection. (b) Renewed within 3 working days of receipt of application.
Licenses	Issued within 3 working days of receipt of application.	Issued within 3 working days of receipt of application.	Issued within 3 working days of receipt of application.	Issued within 3 working days of receipt of application.
Request for Inspector	Call returned within 1 working day of receipt.	Call returned within 1 working day of receipt.	Call returned within 1 working day of receipt.	Call returned within 1 working day of receipt.

Performance Review

In return for SOA operating flexibilities the agency is accountable to deliver services according to approved service standards. NBSCS has met or exceeded inspection targets set for 1998/1999.

Following is a summary of agency performance in eight (8) inspection areas and a statistical summary of services delivered.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS



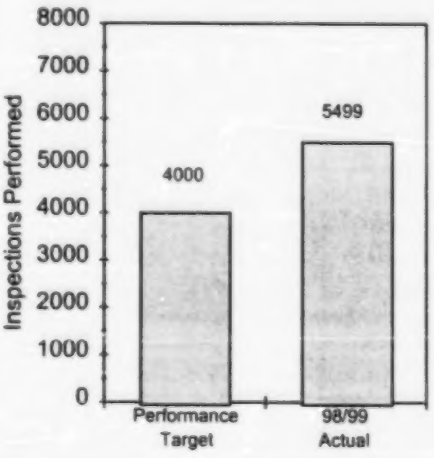
TARGET: 13,000 Inspections according to risk assessment

ACHIEVED: 13,763 Inspections

Represents about 53% coverage of permits issued.

2,545 inspections were by plumbing inspectors qualified as residential electrical inspectors.

PLUMBING INSPECTIONS



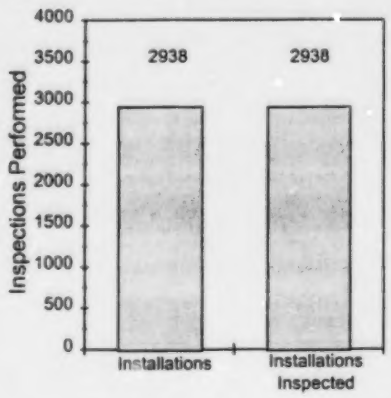
TARGET: 4,000 Inspections according to risk assessment

ACHIEVED: 5,499 Inspections

Represents about 90% coverage of permits issued.

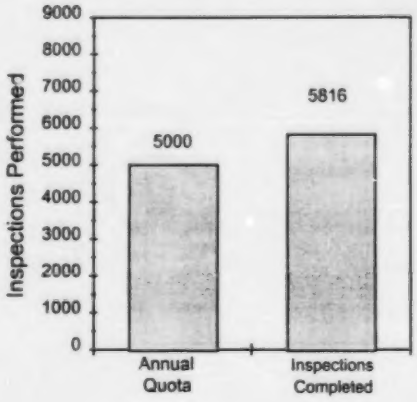
705 inspections were by electrical inspectors qualified as residential plumbing inspectors.

BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTIONS



TARGET: **100% coverage of new or altered boiler and pressure vessel installations inspected before going into service**

ACHIEVED: **100% coverage**



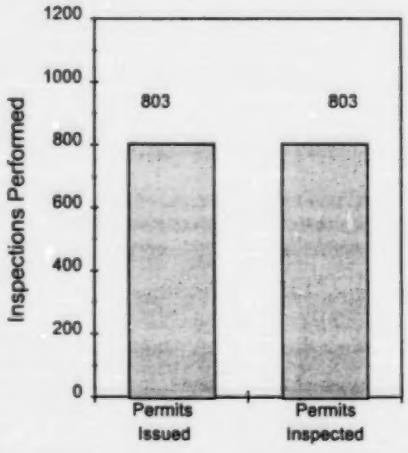
TARGET: **In-Service inspections according to schedule**

ACHIEVED: **100% coverage**

There are approximately 16,000 registered devices requiring about 5,000 inspections per year to meet the inspection schedule.

Entering into 1998/99, there was a backlog of about 5,000 devices outstanding.

This backlog had been reduced to about 4,000 by the end of 1998/99.



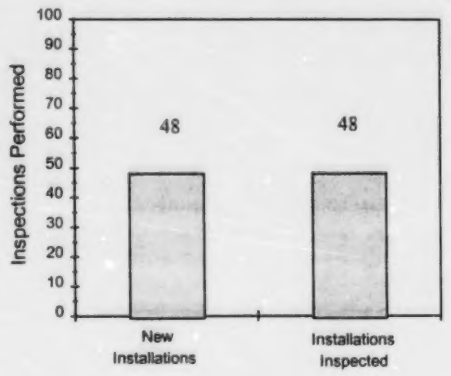
TARGET: **100% coverage of new/altered propane installations inspected before going into service**

ACHIEVED: **100% coverage**

Based on a SCS audit (132 field inspections) of an industry delivered inspection program calling for a 100% coverage.

This arrangement is subject to ongoing review to ensure its effectiveness.

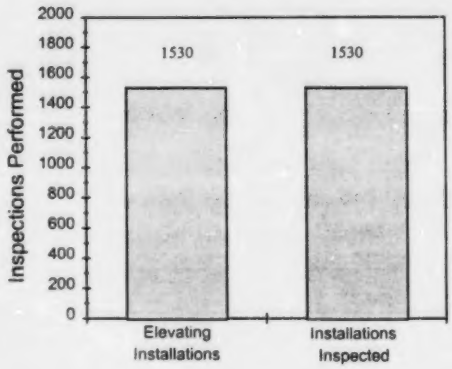
ELEVATOR INSPECTIONS



TARGET: **100% coverage of all new elevating devices and amusement rides inspected before going into service**

ACHIEVED: 100% coverage

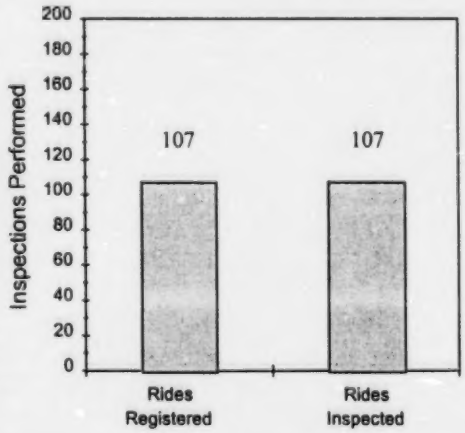
There were 48 new elevating devices installed in New Brunswick during 1998/1999.



TARGET: **100% coverage of annual inspections of elevating devices**

ACHIEVED: 100% coverage

There were 1,530 registered elevating devices operating in NB in 1998/1999.



TARGET: **100% coverage of annual inspections of amusement rides**

ACHIEVED: 100% coverage

There were 107 amusement rides registered in New Brunswick last year.

NBSCS - Statistical Summary of Services

Inspections Carried Out	1998-99
Amusement Devices	137
Boiler and Pressure Vessel	9,299
Electrical	13,763
Elevators	1,781
Gas	132
Plumbing	5,499
TOTAL	**30,611**
Plans Reviewed or Registered	
Boiler and Pressure Vessel	551
Electrical	388
Elevators	48
Gas	60
Plumbing	75
Welding Procedures	62
Quality Management Plan	18
TOTAL	**1,202**
Installation Permits Issued	
Electrical	11,721
Elevator	48
Plumbing	2,628
Gas	803
TOTAL	**15,200**
Licenses Issued or Renewed	
Electrician	1,983
Electrical Contractor	478
Plumbers	498
Plumbing Contractor	247
Compressed Gas	1,986
Stationary Engineer	1,981
Steamfitter-Pipefitter	207
Welder	3,312
Plant Permits	133
TOTAL	**10,825**
Operating Permits	
Elevating Device	1,479
Boiler and Pressure Vessel Registration	16,044
TOTAL	**17,523**
Exams/Tests Conducted	
Gas Exams	81
Stationary Engineer Exams	500
Welders Tested	1,762
TOTAL	**2,343**

Financial Performance

Under the three (3) year transition plan inspection revenues are gradually replacing the departmental operating grant to allow the agency to reach cost recovery. The operating grant which stood at $500,000 in 1996/1997 was reduced to $125,000 in 1998/1999.

The final phase of the ISIS computer project was completed in 1998/1999 at a cost of $800,000 which was funded by the department according to the original SOA agreement.

Central salary increases that have accrued outside of the scope the cost recovery plan are being offset by a central salary grant.

NBSCS realized an operating surplus of $1,200 in 1998/1999 which will be added to the previous year's surplus of $124,500 for an accumulated carry over of $125,700 into fiscal 1999/2000.

1998-99 FINANCIAL REPORT
($000's)

REVENUE

Fees	
Electrical	1,145.4
Plumbing	425.1
Boiler/Pressure Vessel	1,003.4
Elevator	320.7
Dept Operating Grant	125.0
Computer Project	800.0
Central Salary	93.4
Other	10.7
Total Revenues	**3,923.7**

EXPENDITURES

Primary 3 - Personal Services	2,431.9
Primary 4 - Other Services	597.4
Primary 5 - Materials/Supplies	59.1
Primary 6 - Property/Equipment	28.0
Primary 7 - Grants	2.4
Primary 8 - Other Charges	3.7
Computer Project	800.0
Total Expenditures	**3,922.5**
Revenue Surplus	**1.2**